



Madrid (Spain). On 18th of December the **International Migrant Day** was celebrated, and for this day the team of Convergence of Cultures in Carabanchel (Madrid) wanted to organize a **special memorial**

towards those persons locked-in in the Internment Centres of Immigrants (CIE), persons who previously had suffered the police raid of foreigners' identification and who now are deprived of freedom without having committed any crime or offence, except an administrative lack, that should be settled as others are, with a simple fine.

These Internment Centres of Immigrants (**CIE**)(known as the "Spanish Guantanamo's ") as the racist raids have been objected to numerous critiques and denunciations from national and international organisms. Nevertheless the population is much unaware to what these people are exposed to, who are caught in the roundups, then admitted to the CIE and probably expelled from the country.

For all of this, during the week from December 12 to 18 a campaign was realized focused on putting the neighbours in a disposition to direct themselves to these concrete persons who right now are detained in the CIE: **"What would you say to them?"** Necessarily this question leads us to **take "contact" with these persons, and think about these persons and feel these persons**

Information-tables were placed in several points of the neighbourhood and the neighbours were invited to express their feelings on cards, which resembled a bit to these greeting cards in which the people express a comment to an honoured person. The main idea of the campaign was to bring these cards with the dedications to the detained people in the CIE of Aluche (Madrid) on the International Migrant Day. Beside of that the campaign also aimed to clarify the neighbours who did not know the existence of these Internment Centres for Immigrants. Many people, besides writing their dedication, took cards to gather more dedications from their relatives and friends.

The principal message of the card was saying: "To all those who are detained in the Internment Centres for Immigrants and cannot celebrate this day with us, because you have taken off your right of free movement... **WE WISH YOU WERE WITH US**".

Finally, on December 18, we went to Aluche's CIE (Madrid) to give the cards to the detained people. As expected, we were not allowed to take direct contact with these "prisoners", therefore we gave the cards to the relatives, who went to visit them that day, in order they could give the cards to them. Besides being grateful, the relatives also told us their situations and what they were going through, dramas that added to the suffering of being detained.

It would be an excess to mention here all the dedications and support that was collected, but undoubtedly, they are reflecting the population's disagreement with the repressive measures of our leaders.

More information: jadiaz@humanistas.org

Translated to English by Gloria Catalina Calleja